

NORTH CAROLINA
SYMPHONY

2015/16

What makes music, music?



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Georges Bizet

Born: October 25, 1838, Paris, France
Died: June 3, 1875, Bougival, France

Georges Bizet grew up in a musical family. His aunt was a famous singer, his father a singer and composer, and his mother a pianist. Bizet loved to play the piano, and by the age of four he could already read and write music! He was recognized as a child prodigy and shortly before his tenth birthday he began his studies at the Paris Conservatory of Music. There, he composed his first symphony at the age of 17 and began to earn acclaim as both a pianist and composer.

Upon finishing school, Bizet won a prestigious award known as the *Prix de Rome*, which allowed him to study and compose in Rome for three years. Although Bizet enjoyed his time in Rome, he eventually grew homesick and returned to Paris. Bizet most enjoyed writing opera, but began to receive negative reviews from the opera critics in Paris. He struggled to compose operas that pleased not only the Parisian audiences but also himself. His final opera, *Carmen*, became his most successful and masterful work. Sadly, Bizet died before the piece became very popular, but many influential composers were fans, including Camille Saint-Saëns, Piotr Tchaikovsky and Claude Debussy.

Fun Facts

- Bizet was considered a “master pianist” by the age of 14.
- His first symphony was written as an assignment at the Paris Conservatory. It was forgotten about and not debuted until 1935, after which it was deemed a master work.
- Bizet married the daughter of his music teacher.
- Bizet loved reading so much that his parents had to hide his books so he would spend more time working on his music.

Introduction

Featured Work: “**Farandole**”
from *L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2*

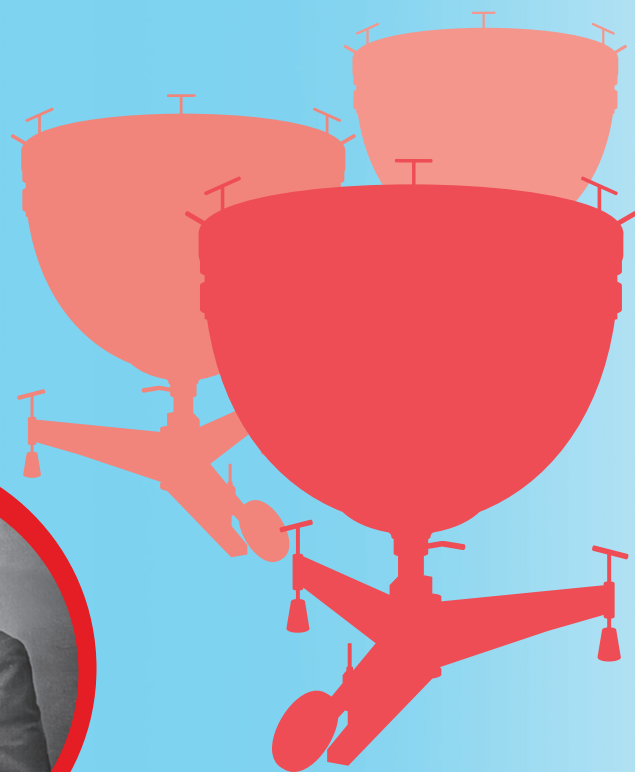
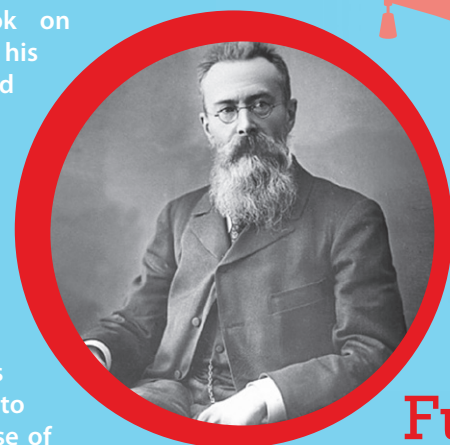
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Born: March 18, 1844, Tikhvin, Russia
Died: June 21, 1908, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov was always more interested in his studies than in music. He began music lessons at age six, yet it wasn't until he turned 17 that Rimsky-Korsakov began to develop a true love for music. Mily Balakirev, an influential composer of the time, encouraged Rimsky-Korsakov to perform his works and begin a career in music.

Rimsky-Korsakov was passionate about opera, and oftentimes took on unfinished projects left by his colleagues who had passed away. He took on a position as a teacher at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, but the job did not suit him and he eventually returned to his occupation as a full-time composer. Rimsky-Korsakov was a member of a group of Russian composers known as "The Five," whose goal was to infuse their music with a sense of Russian pride. The group frowned upon the strict, Western rules that limited their ideas of music.

Rimsky-Korsakov struggled to find acceptance among his peers and was constantly trying to balance his personal style with an "appropriate" musical structure. His obsession with counterpoint is an example of this, repeating specific phrases and layering them throughout the piece.



Fun Facts

- Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov once served as the band director of the Russian Navy.
- Rimsky-Korsakov was a mentor and teacher of Igor Stravinsky.
- He became part of a well-known group of Russian nationalist composers called "The Mighty Handful" (also known as "The Five"—see above), many of whom were his close friends (Borodin, Balakirev, Cui, and Mussorgsky).

Featured Work: "The Sea and Sinbad's Ship" from *Scheherazade*

The overall sound of the instruments that are playing... it's how the music **feels**

Texture



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Rhythm

A pattern of notes
of varied lengths
and accents... the
beat or the pulse
of the music



Fun Facts

- Rossini is respected as the principal Italian composer of the early nineteenth century.
- Rossini's life is like a two act opera: Act I "Swift Triumph," Act II "Seclusion."
- *William Tell* Overture was the last of 37 operas that Rossini composed.
- Rossini often broke the rules of *opera buffa* (comic opera), and wrote long embellished and beautiful melodies. He was seen as the true creator of *bel canto* (singing in a sweet and delicate manner).
- Rossini loved to tease and play jokes on his friends. This personality trait was evident in his music, especially when he wrote *opera buffa*.
- He liked to cook! Rossini is said to have "dedicated half his life to opera, and half to food."

Featured Work:
***William Tell* Overture**



Gioachino Rossini

Born: February 29, 1792, Pesaro, Italy
Died: November 13, 1868, Paris, France

On February 29, 1792, a baby was born to a village trumpet player and local opera singer in the Italian town of Pesaro. Rossini started his musical pursuits playing the triangle in his father's band at the age of six. His father, having welcomed Napoleon's troops upon their arrival in Northern Italy, was later imprisoned. Relocated to Bologna, Rossini was raised by his grandmother while his mother traveled, making a living performing in various theaters. His grandmother, unable to control him, forced him to live the life of a blacksmith. During his childhood, his musical studies included singing, cello, keyboard, and music theory. By the age of 13, Rossini's career began as a musician, performing as a singer in an opera called *Camilla*—his only public performance! He also began writing his own music, creating works for orchestra and piano by the time he was 16 years old.

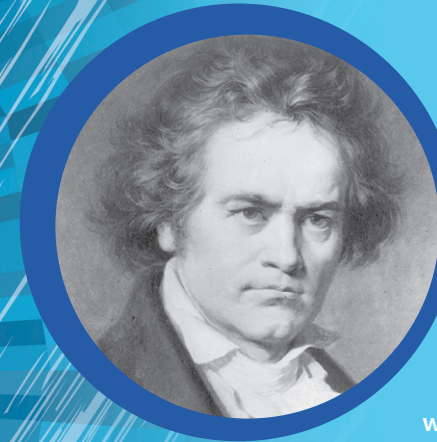
After some time, Rossini's voice began to falter, and unable to sing, he became an accompanist and a conductor. He began to understand the importance of composition, admiring Haydn and Mozart's influence on music. He became interested in the genre of the time period, *opera buffa* (comic opera). Many of these operas are still performed today across the globe, including *The Barber of Seville*, *La Cenerentola* (a Cinderella story), and *William Tell*.

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Dynamics

The softness or
loudness of the sound



Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770, Bonn, Germany
Died: March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austria

Beethoven was born to a troubled family. His father and mother did not have much money, and worse, his father was abusive. However, his father taught him how to play the piano at age four. By the time Beethoven was eight years old, many would pay to come hear him play piano in his family home. Christian Gottlob Neefe, one of his listeners, offered to give him lessons at age 12. With the help of Neefe, Beethoven had published music and achieved a position as a court organist by the time he was 14.

By the time he reached adulthood, Beethoven had arrived in Vienna, Austria, desiring to study with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to fulfill his dream. After the death of Mozart, many believed Beethoven to be his rightful musical heir, and as a result, Beethoven produced many "Mozartean" compositions. Beethoven would remain in Austria to reach his musical maturity, producing many works including his symphonies, ballets, and piano concertos.

Fun Facts

- Beethoven wrote nine symphonies.
- Beethoven was never married.
- Beethoven only wrote one opera and one ballet, preferring symphonies and concertos.
- Beethoven especially liked writing piano music.

Featured Work: "The Storm" (Mvt. IV: Allegro)
from Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"

Franz Schubert

Born: January 31, 1797, Vienna, Austria
Died: November 19, 1828, Vienna, Austria

Franz Peter Schubert was born to a large family of three older brothers and one younger sister. His father was a school master and purchased a home to make a school. Beginning his education at age six, Schubert took piano lessons with his brother Ignaz. A musical family, they had formed a string quartet with the father on cello, two older brothers on violin, and Schubert on viola. He later went on to learn organ, improvisation, and composition from Michael Holzer.



By the age of seven, Schubert dabbled in opera, auditioning and placing in the Hofkapelle Boys' Choir. At this point, he was enrolled in Imperial and Royal City College boarding school, only to later join the school orchestra to perform works of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Schubert excelled not only in his musical studies, but also the rest of his academics.

However, in 1812 the death of his mother complicated matters. He turned to composition. Leaving the school in October of 1813, his father encouraged him to be a school teacher. He did not enjoy teaching and spent much of his time composing. Schubert was considered a lyric poet, often setting poems to music and writing lyrical piano sonatas.

Fun Facts

- Although Schubert wrote operas and melodramas, they were not very successful.
- Schubert wrote more than 1000 compositions, including over 600 songs.
- Schubert wrote nine symphonies (same as Beethoven!).
- A big fan of Beethoven, he was one of the torch bearers at his funeral, and he is buried next to him.
- Schubert was very modest about his music. He would often write, and then hide the music in his drawers.

Form

How the sections of music
are put together...
the structure

Featured Work: **Mvt. III: Menuetto**
from **Symphony No. 2**

Johannes Brahms

Born: May 7, 1833, Hamburg, Germany
Died: April 3, 1897, Vienna, Austria

Johannes Brahms was born on May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany. His father was a musician, and his mother was a seamstress. He composed during an era of music history called the Romantic period. He respected famous composers who came before him, including Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven and had a particular admiration for Johann Sebastian Bach's music.

Brahms showed his musical talents early on. He began playing piano at age seven, and helped to supplement his family's income by playing in restaurants and theaters. Brahms also learned to play cello when he was young, but had to stop when his cello teacher stole his instrument! As a teenager, young Johannes was already conducting choirs and later became a successful choral and orchestra conductor. By the age of 19, Brahms was well-known as a pianist and played a concert tour of Europe.

Brahms met many famous musicians while traveling on his concert tours. While playing piano for Hungarian violinist Eduard Remenyi in 1853, he met the famous violinist Joseph Joachim and the composer Franz Liszt. He was also lifelong friends with famed Viennese waltz composer, Johann Strauss, Jr. Remenyi introduced Brahms to Hungarian folk music and its gypsy-life rhythms and melodies. Brahms later used them in his music, including his 12 Hungarian Dances. They helped spread his name to a wider audience than his other music had.



Fun Facts

- In his later years, Brahms' appearance was very recognizable as he had a long beard and large frame, which was the opposite of his thin figure and smooth cheeks as a youth. Brahms did not grow his beard until he was 45 years old.
- Brahms was extremely critical of his music and destroyed musical scores and sketches which he thought were not his best work.
- Although Brahms was quiet and shy, he had many friends, and even though he was not married, he was known as a favorite "uncle" to many of his friends' children.
- Brahms never went to college!

Featured Work:
Hungarian Dance No. 6

Tempo

The speed of the music...
how fast or how slow



“America the Beautiful”

Arr. Terry Mizesko

Born: September 21, 1946, Morehead City, N.C.

You might find Terry Mizesko in the North Carolina Symphony's brass section or preparing arrangements for Symphony performances. A multi-talented musician, Mizesko has been Principal Bass Trombone with the North Carolina Symphony since 1971.

Mizesko is a native of Morehead City, N.C., and a graduate of East Carolina University. There he studied composition and trombone with Gregory Kosteck and Eugene Narmour. Mizesko has conducted the North Carolina Chamber Players, the Governor's School Wind Ensemble, the Raleigh Youth Symphony and the Duke University Wind Symphony. He also appeared as guest conductor with the Charlotte Symphony in education concerts. Mizesko taught trombone for more than 20 years at several area schools including Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill and St. Augustine's College. He now devotes much of his time to composition and his family.



Fun Facts

- Despite being from the coast, his favorite North Carolina city is Asheville.
- His favorite pastime is spending time with his family.
- Mizesko's two children are his inspiration for writing music for kids.
- He enjoys minor league baseball, especially the Durham Bulls and Carolina Mudcats.
- He's played with every Music Director the North Carolina Symphony has ever had, with the exception of its founder.
- He loves to cook.

Melody

The main idea of the music... the line that you walk away singing

“America the Beautiful” can also be played with instruments, like the recorder. We hope to hear an instrumental group from your school perform this song at your concert before you sing it with the orchestra. For those who will play, here are the instructions:

1. Learn to play “America the Beautiful” on an instrument, such as recorder, stringed instrument, bells, guitar or other.
2. Memorize the music so you can watch your conductor.
3. Play the song through one time at your North Carolina Symphony concert.

America the Beautiful

words by Katharine Lee Bates (adapted)
music by Samuel A. Ward

With solemn dignity $\text{♩} = 76$

8

orchestra introduction

VERSE

1. O beau - ti - ful, for spa - cious skies, For
beau - ti - ful, for pa - triot dream That

12

F7 Bb Bb F G Maj

am - ber waves of grain, For pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties A - bove the fruit - ed
sees be - yond the years, Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam Un - dimmed by hu - man

17

CHORUS

C F7 Bb F F7 Bb Bb7

plain! A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee, And
tears!

22

Eb Bb Eb F7 1. Bb 2. Bb

crown thy good with broth - er - hood, from sea to shin - ing sea! 2. O sea!

America the Beautiful

FOR RECORDERS

music by Samuel A. Ward

With solemn dignity $\text{♩} = 76$

C G G7 C C

G A Maj D G7 C G G7

C F C F G7 1. C 2. C

Featured Work:
“America the Beautiful”



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Igor Stravinsky

Born: June 17, 1882, Oranienbaum (Lomonosov), Russia
Died: April 6, 1971, New York, New York

The Russian-born American composer Igor Stravinsky identified himself as an “inventor of music.” Like so many other great composers, Stravinsky grew up in a very musical family. His father was an opera singer, and his mother was an excellent piano player. He was the third of four sons. As a child, he enjoyed going to the opera to hear his father sing. His parents did not want him to study music, however, they agreed to let him take piano lessons when he was nine years old. They wanted him to be a lawyer when he grew up but Stravinsky loved playing the piano more than anything. After high school, he entered the University of St. Petersburg to study law. He found studying law very boring and did not do very well in school. Soon after his father died, he decided not to become a lawyer and put all his time into becoming a composer.

Stravinsky's first important composition, *The Firebird* ballet, was such a big hit that he became famous overnight. Stravinsky was asked by a ballet producer to write the music for the ballet, *The Rite of Spring*. When the ballet was performed in Paris, the music shocked the audience and caused a riot. This music made him the most famous living composer in the world. By the time he was 30 years old, his music won him world-wide admiration. With his new rhythmic and unexpected sounds, Stravinsky is considered one of the most influential composers of the twentieth century.



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NORTH CAROLINA
SYMPHONY

Finale

All elements work together to form music!



Fun Facts

- Stravinsky's earliest memory as a child was the rhythmic sound of a peculiar clicking made by an old Russian peasant.
- *The Rite of Spring* was used in Walt Disney's movie, *Fantasia*. The music depicts animated scenes of the growth of Earth with erupting volcanoes, prehistoric forests, and dinosaurs.
- He wrote a circus polka for 50 elephants in ballet tutus.
- The Boston police wanted to fine him \$100 for writing an arrangement of *The Star-Spangled Banner*.
- He was honored by President John F. Kennedy at the White House for his 80th birthday.

Featured Work: **Infernal Dance**
and **Finale** from *The Firebird Suite*

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